

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 795

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James E. Lanier for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as President of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy attorney is James “Jimmy” E. Lanier of Dyersburg, who, since 2006, has served the citizens of Dyer and Lake Counties with distinction as District Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as President of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, Mr. Lanier has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to this State; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lanier is a native of Dyer County and earned his Bachelor of Political Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1974 and obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence at the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, in 1976; he engaged in private practice from 1977-1988; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lanier served as an assistant district attorney and as an assistant public defender between 1988-2006; and

WHEREAS, in 1969 James O. Lanier, the father of Jimmy Lanier, graduated from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, making Jimmy and his father the first parent-child graduates from the law school; and

WHEREAS, James O. Lanier also served as the District Public Defender for Dyer and Lake Counties, making Jimmy and his father the first parent-child District Public Defenders of

the State of Tennessee, as well as, the first parent-child Conference Presidents of the TN District Public Defenders Conference; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a leader by his peers and colleagues, Jimmy Lanier is currently serving his first tenure as the President of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, having previously served as vice president, secretary treasurer, and as a member of the Executive Committee, as well as, other notable committees for the Conference; and

WHEREAS, James E. Lanier epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, James Lanier served as an Eagle Scout during his youth and has remained active in scouting as a Scoutmaster; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lanier is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Tammy, and their three children and two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, James Lanier has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar and bench and his community alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend James "Jimmy" E. Lanier for his meritorious service to the good people of the State of Tennessee as the President of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference 2011-2012 and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.